(a) how many Helicopters are owned by the Helicopter Corporation of India;

(b) whether Government had appointed a Committee to go into the technical feasibility and airworthiness of the Helicopters owned by Helicopter Corporation of India;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report and what are its findings; and

(d) if so, what are the action on the findings of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Helicopter Corporation of India, subsequently renamed as Pawan Hans Limited presently owns 19 Dauphin, 1 Bell 206L4, and 2 Robinson R-44 helicopters besides 19 Westland helicopters which have been grounded since February, 1991.

(b) to (d) A Committee was appointed under chairmanship of Dr. S.A. Hussainy, Director, Technical Development & Production (Air), Ministry of Defence, to review the safety and operational aspects of Westland helicopters. The report of the Committee has been made available to Parliament Library *vide* Index No. 629-13252/NO.

The findings/recommendations of Dr. Hussainy Committee Report were studies by a Sub- Committee appointed by the D.G.C.A. and based on recommendations of this Sub-Committee, the entire fleet of Westland helicopters has been grounded with effect from 9-2-1991(AN).

Foreign exchange earned and spent by Airlines

2153. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL ALIAS MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIALTION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how much foreign exchange went out of the country through the Foreign Airlines during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st December, 1994 (Airlines-wise); and

(b) how much foreign exchange was earned by Air India during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Foreign Exchange earning of Air India during April-December, 1994 was Rs. 577.19 crores.

Air service at lower rates

2154. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider having a "no-frills" air service at lower cost to the public;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is such service in other countries;

(c) whether Government have studied this potential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) It is for individual airlines to market the kinds of services they wish to provide in their commercial judgement.

Development of Tourism Spot at Pauri

2155. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have any plan for the year 1995-96 to develop more tourism development centres in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that State Government of Uttar Pradesh have submitted their representation to the Union Government regarding development of Tourism Spot/Centre at Pauri, a hilly district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to State Governments/Union

Territories for development of tourism infrastructure such as construction of wayside amenities, tourist bungalows, lodges, yatri niwases etc. The projects are sanctioned depending on merits of each proposal received from the States, inter-se priority and availability of funds. The proposals for the year 1995-96 are expected during the course of the year.

(c) and (d) No specific proposal has been received regarding the development of a Tourism Spot/Centre at Puri.

Establishment of Private Airlines by MNCs

2156. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request/application for establishment of Private Airlines/Air Taxies from Multi- national Companies and NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of projects alongwith the equity capital proposed and mode of financing; and

(d) the names of such companies and the proposed names of board of directors with addresses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) No application from any Multi-national Company has been received for operating Scheduled Airlines/Air Taxies. One Application from an NRI has been received for starting Scheduled Airlines in India. The name of the company is Trans India Airlines and its subscribed equity capital is Rs. 77,000 which is proposed to be increased to Rs. 5 crores. The applicant proposes to operate in and around Hyderabad/Bangalore.

Discontinuance of air service to Salem and Tuticorin

2157. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the air service provided to Salem Airport and Tuticorin Airport have been discontinued; and

(b) if so, whether Government would come forward to honour its commitment made to the people of Tamil Nadu in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Vayudoot has not operated to Salem at any time. It discontinued its services from Tuticorin in June, 1993. M/s. NEPC Airlines has also discontinued its services to Salem and Tuticorin.

(b) Private Operators are free to operate to any airport open for scheduled operation.

Expenditure on staff sent abroad for business by Air India

2158. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *ALIAS* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers/executives rank-wise who were sent abroad or who visited various parts of the world for business in respect of Air India during 1993-94;

(b) what are the names of the countries/places visited by them for the purpose;

(c) what is the expenditure incurred on them on account of air tickets, lodging and boarding and local travel expenses in the countries/places of their visit; and

(d) what is the achievement made in relation to the expenditure incurred by Government on their trips?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Details of the number of officers of Air India sent abroad during 1993-94 for business promotion is given below:—

Commercial Director—1
Dy. Commercial Directors—3.
Sr. Station Managers/Station Managers—12
Station Superintendents—10
Assistant Station Superintendents—13

(b) These officers visited Singapore, USA, UK, Dubai, France, Tanzania, Male, Denmark, Sweden, Baharain, Hongkong, China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, South Africa, Indonesia, Switzerland, Egypt, Turkey,